REGULAR MEETING
ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 9, 2011

The Rockaway Township Board of Education held a regular meeting on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, at 6:01 PM at the Copeland Middle School, Lake Shore Drive, Rockaway, New Jersey.

The following members of the Board of Education were present: Mr. Giarratano, Mr. Jackson, Mrs. Power, Mr. Puzio, Mrs. Salny, Mr. West arrived at 6:04 PM and Dr. Friedberger arrived at 6:42 PM.

Public announcement was read regarding the "Open Public Meeting Act." No Board Member objected to the conduct of the meeting as advertised.

Motion made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Puzio to adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act" the Rockaway Township Board of Education will meet in closed session to discuss matters involving personnel and legal items, the content of said discussions will be disclosed to the public at such time and extent as is required by law.

All present voting yes, motion carried.

The Board met in closed session.

Motion made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Giarratano that the closed session meeting stand adjourned at 7:17 PM Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

The Public Meeting reconvened at 7:18 PM Also present were 46 visitors and no members of the press.

Dr. Friedberger opened the regular business meeting of the Board.

Motion by Mr. Puzio, seconded by Mr. West to open the public session of the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Resident distributed a letter/policy to the Board on gifts. Resident addressed the donation by Chartwell. Mr. Iaciofano, Special Council, asked specific questions of the Resident. Resident raised a question on policy violation.

Resident asked that correspondence from Mr. Doty to the Acting Commissioner of Education be read aloud to the Public.

Dr. Friedberger read into the record the letter from Mr. Doty to Acting Commission of Education regarding allegations of violations.

Mrs. Salny left the meeting at 7:17 PM and returned at 7:22 PM and left again at 7:23 PM and returned at 7:26 PM.

Dr. Verbist left the meeting at 7:17 PM and returned at 7:27 PM. During his absence Dr. Vitta takes notes.

Dr. Friedberger read into the record Mr. Doty's ethics censures. He also addressed the time and resources the District has spent on Mr. Doty's allegations. Dr. Friedberger addressed the legal expenses that would have been better spent on children.

Resident wanted clarification on was the food a gift or donation.

Dr. Friedberger addressed the Letters to the Editor from Mr. Doty and Dr. Friedberger's responses to those Letters to the Editor.

Mr. Giarratano addressed Mr. Doty's innumerable emails to the District on alleged violations. He displayed a chart depicting the number of emails sent by Mr. Doty regarding OPRA.

Dr. Friedberger read into the record the official letter from the Interim Executive County School Business Administrator, Ralph Goodwin, to Mr. Doty addressing Mr. Doty's allegation of violations. Mr. Goodwin's letter clearly indicates that the District did not violate any statues or guidelines.

Motion by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Salny to close the public session of the meeting 7:45 PM.

Show of hands on above, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received for the Board since the last regular meeting:

Ted Doty	Re: Circling the Wagons
Ted Doty	Re: OPRA Request
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA Request 2010-30
Ted Doty	Re: Circling the Wagons II
Ted Doty	Re: Birchwood
Ted Doty	Re: for the anonymous Bertram
BW Retirement Planning Committee	Re: Save the date
Scott Allshouse	Re: CMS Concerts
Ted Doty	Re: A new budget season
Lina Cedeno	Re: Pre-kindergarten
Ted Doty	Re: Your email dated January 28, 2011
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA 2010-31 & 2010-32
Ted Doty	Re: Encumbered Severance Funds
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA Request
Ted Doty	Re: OPRA Request
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA 2010-32
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA 2010-31
Dondrea Bryant	Re: School Questions
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA 2010-31 & 2010-32 (Multiple Emails)
Ted Doty/Dr. James P. Verbist	Re: OPRA 2010-35 (Multiple Emails)
Lauren Jackson	Re: Resources
Richard M. Onorevole	Re: Absentee Ballot
Ted Doty	Re: Denial of Access
David Sarkisian/Susan Salny	Re: Winter Recess Change
David Sarkisian	Re: Parent's Reply to Calendar
Ted Doty	Re: Letter to Acting Commissioner of Education

PRESENTATION

Geography Bee Presentation

Dr. Grefe made a presentation to the Geography Bee winners. Dr. Grefe provided a brief overview of the program and contest. Dr. Grefe acknowledged the staff who were part of this process. Dr. Friedberger and the Board congratulated the winners.

APPROVE MINUTES

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mr. Jackson to approve the minutes of January 19, 2011.

Roll Call Vote on above, Mr. Giarratano and Mrs. Power abstaining all others present voting yes, motion so carried.

Supt Report

The following information was presented by the Superintendent in his report:

Dr. Vitta addressed the interview process for the three principal vacancies.

Dr. Vitta read into the record a letter from Samsung to Copeland Middle School for being selected a finalist in the Samsung Solve For Tomorrow Contest. Copeland Middle School will receive $15,000 worth of Samsung and Microsoft products.

Dr. Vitta reminded the Public on the new dates for February break announced last fall.

Dr. Vitta addressed the 2011-2012 school year budget. He specifically addressed staff reductions necessary in 2011-2012 to present a budget within the 2% CAP.

He addressed the impact of the staff reductions on class size. He indicated the range in class size is projected to be 18-30 students per class in Grades PreK-5.

He addressed the changes implemented in 2010-2011 which carry over into 2011-2012.

Dr. Verbist addressed specific items in the 2011-2012 budget.

Dr. Vitta addressed After School Activities and Play-for-Pay transportation.

Mrs. Power indicated that she and Mr. Jackson are the Finance Committee and she addressed the 2011-2012 school budget and the NJSBA Workshop she attended on Education and Education Funding.

Mrs. Power read into the minutes a portion of the NJSBA September /October Highlights regarding special education and its impact on the 2011-2012 school year budget. She offered some suggestions and conclusions on the issues related to school budgets.

Informational Items:

- Enrollment – January
- Fire/Security/Evacuation Drills – January
- Nurses' Report - January
- Field Trip Report - January
- The Dwyer Crier – Winter 2010
- Parent-To-Parent – February 2011

The following was presented by the Business Administrator in his report:
Dr. Verbist had no reported this evening.

Communications Committee

Board Communications Committee
Mr. Giarratano addressed the District's communication instrument. He addressed the next issue topics.

Mr. West provided some additional community and suggestions. Various Board Members provided comments.

The following actions were taken during the Regular Meeting of the Board:
Personnel
The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following certificated personnel:

Motion made by Mrs. Salny, seconded by Mrs. Power to approve the following personnel recommendations.

Employ After School

Employment/After School Program
Approve the course, instructor and the individual rate per quarter, indicated on the attached list, for the After School Program for the 2010-2011 school year.

Employ Subs

Employment/Substitute Teachers
Approve the employment of the following county and state certified Substitute Teachers indicated below for the 2010-2011 school year:

Britt Huss Denville, NJ	St. Elizabeth's College, NJ (BA) Certification: Effective Date:	 State February 10, 201
John K. Ray Denville, NJ	William Paterson University, NJ (BA) Certification: Effective Date:	 County February 10, 2011
Robert Seawick Dover, NJ 07801	University of Oregon, OR (BA) Certification: Effective Date:	 State February 10, 2011

Extended Leave of Absence — **Extended Leave**

Approve an extended leave of absence for Karen Renaud, full-time Academic Intervention Teacher at the Birchwood School, without pay, under the Twelve Week Federal Family Leave Act, effective February 1, 2011 through February 18, 2011, the leave will continue without pay, effective February 21, 2011 through March 4, 2011. (Mrs. Renaud is expected to return to work on March 7, 2011).

Leaves of Absence — **Leaves**

Approve a leave of absence for Ashley Kasak, full-time Grade 3 Teacher at the Stony Brook School, with pay, effective March 21, 2011 through May 10, 2011, the leave will continue, without pay, under the New Jersey Twelve Week Family Leave Act, effective May 11, 2011 through October 14, 2011 and will continue from October 17, 2011 through December 16, 2011. (Mrs. Kasak is expected to return to work on December 19, 2011).

Approve a leave of absence for Gary Kutzelman, full-time Grade 6, 7 and 8 Music Teacher for the Copeland Middle School, with pay, effective January 21, 2011 through February 11, 2011. (Mr. Kutzelman is expected to return to work on February 14, 2011).

Reemployment/Substitute Teacher — **Reemploy Subs**

Approve the reemployment of Elvin Giordano, IV, as a county certified Substitute Teacher, effective January 19, 2011, for the 2010-2011 school year. The rate of pay is $85.00 per diem.

Resignations — **Resignations**

Approve the resignation of Jill Budd, Physical Therapist, on an "as needed" basis, at the Birchwood School, effective February 14, 2011.

Approve the resignation, due to retirement, of Susan Fuchs, full-time Grade 5 Teacher at the Catherine A. Dwyer School, effective July 1, 2011.

The Superintendent of Schools recommends actions on the following non-certificated personnel:

Employment — **Employment**

Approve the employment of Wendy Schibener, as a part-time Staff Assistant, for the morning session, in the Preschool Disabilities Class, at 17.5 hours per week, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective February 1, 2011, for the 2011-2012 school year. The rate of pay is $15.53 (Step 1) per hour.

Explanation: Due to increased enrollment in the preschool disabilities class.

Job Reassignment — **Job Reassignment**

Approve the job reassignment of Melany Malzahn, from a part-time Staff Assistant in the Pre-school disabilities class in the afternoon session at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, to a full-time Staff Assistant in the Pre-School disabilities class, per the student's IEP with sign language, in the morning session, and in the Pre-School disabilities class, in the afternoon session, at the Dennis B. O'Brien School, effective February 16, 2010, for the 2010-2011 school year. The annual prorated salary is $16,075.00 (Step 2).

Leaves of Absence — **Leaves**

Approve a leave of absence for Luis Contreras, full-time Night Custodian at the Stony Brook School, with pay, effective January 10, 2011 through February 4, 2011. (Mr. Contreras is expected to return to work on February 7, 2011).

Approve a leave of absence for Donna Fossum, full-time Custodian at the Central Office, with pay, effective February 8, 2011 through February 23, 2011. (Mrs. Fossum is expected to return to work on February 24, 2011).

Resignation — **Resignation**

Approve the resignation of Thomas White, Jr., Security Personnel for the district, effective February 21, 2011.

Salary Adjustment — **Salary Adjustment**

Approve the salary adjustment of Elaine Graham, Supervisor of Accounts Payable, at the Central Office, effective January 1, 2011, for the 2010-2011 school year. The annual salary will be $51,440.00.

Explanation: Salary alignment consistent with administrative central office support staff salaries in accordance with contractual verbiage and guidelines that must be adhered to.

Superior Attendance Stipend — **Superior Attendance**

Approve the appropriate stipend indicated on the attached list for the contracted Bus Drivers that have had superior attendance for the period of September 1, 2010 through January 31, 2011.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Curriculum/Instruction

Motion made by Mr. Giarratano, seconded by Mrs. Power to approve the following curriculum/instruction recommendations.

Approve preparation time only for staff members, per the attached list, who presented workshops on January 17, 2011. — **Workshop Hrs**

Explanation: Per the District's Professional Development Plan.

Approve Ashley Betancur, a Raritan Valley Community College student, to observe Michele Ruff, School Nurse, at Birchwood School on February 4, 2011 for four (4) hours. — **Student Teachers**

Explanation: Requirement for completion of her Associate Nursing Degree.

Approve the following students, from Montclair State University, as student teachers for the spring semester:

Jane Firneno
Bradley Haynes

Explanation: Requirement for degree.

Approve Rosemarie Akbari, from County College of Morris, for four (4) hours of classroom observation at the Stony Book School.

Explanation: Requirement for degree.

Approve the following Staff Assistants to be paid with ARRA grant funds, for attending the January 26th and 31st workshop entitled "Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Training:" — **Workshop ARRA Funds**

Diane Volpe	DBO	$77.65	100% ARRA grant
Celia Balbi	DBO	$83.65	100% ARRA grant

Explanation: Staff paid with grant money need board approval.

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Administration

Motion made by Mr. West, seconded by Mrs. Salny to approve the following administrative recommendations.

Authorize the following schools as official polling locations for the School Election on April 27, 2011, from 2:00 PM to 9:00 PM: — **Polling Locations**

Birchwood School
Catherine A. Dwyer School
Katharine D. Malone School
Dennis B. O'Brien School
Stony Brook School

Roll Call Vote on all above recommendations, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Finance

Motion made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mrs. Power to approve the following finance recommendations.

Travel

Be It Resolved in accordance with Chapter 53 and Board Policies 4133 and 9250 the Rockaway Township Board of Education approves the attached travel expenses as they promote the delivery of instruction, critical to the instructional needs of the district and/or further the efficient operations of the district (see attached).

Be It Further Resolved, that the travel is educationally necessary and fiscally prudent and is directly related to, and within, the scope of the current responsibilities for district employees/trustees and the district's Professional Development Plan.

Explanation: As per statute, boards of education are required to establish a maximum budget for travel and subsistence, the Board may not exceed this maximum.

Old Business

Old Business

Mr. Jackson reported on the RTEA negotiations and indicated the dates for the next three negotiation dates.

Mrs. Salny reported that the RTAA next meeting is on February 14, 2011.

Mrs. Salny reported on the March 2, 2011 Board-to-Board meeting and asked for volunteers to attend.

New Business

New Business

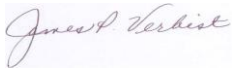
Dr. Friedberger indicated be cannot attend the February 23, 2011 meeting and asked to move it to February 24, 2011. After a poll of the Board, the meeting will remain on February 23, 2011.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Giarratano that the meeting stand adjourned at 8:50 PM

Roll Call Vote, all present voting yes, motion so carried.

Respectfully submitted,



DR. JAMES P. VERBIST
Board Secretary